

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-11 and 13-19 are pending in the application, with 1, 7, and 10 being the independent claims. Claims 12, 20 and 21 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-9 and 14-16 were allowable. Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's allowance of these claims.

***Objection to the Specification***

The Examiner objected to the specification because of an informality in designating the "manifold" and "manifold plug" by the same reference number. The above amendment of paragraph 020 changes the Detailed Description so that it refers to the "manifold plug" by the proper reference number. Accordingly, the objection has been addressed and is rendered moot.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Independent Claim 10, and Claims 11-13 and 17-19 which depend therefrom, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,849,343 to Gellert ("Gellert"). Applicants have amended claim 10 to include the restriction of former claim 12, which recites that the guide is integrally formed with the inner wall of the manifold channel. Applicants submit that amended claim 10 is not anticipated or obvious in view of Gellert.

Gellert discloses an injection molding apparatus including a manifold having a manifold channel extending therethrough. A nozzle is coupled to an outlet of the manifold channel. A bore, which is aligned with the outlet of the manifold channel, extends through the manifold. A sealing bushing is mounted in the bore to receive a valve pin. The valve pin selectively engages a mold gate, which is located adjacent a forward end of the nozzle.

Gellert does not teach or suggest a guide projecting from an inner wall of the manifold channel, the guide being integrally formed with the inner wall of the manifold channel and diametrically opposing the inlet for restricting the flow of the melt stream. In fact, the sealing bushing of Gellert is a separate part and therefore is not integrally formed with an inner wall of the manifold channel.

Applicants therefore submit that claim 10 is in condition for allowance. It follows that claims 11, 13 and 17-19 are also in condition for allowance.

Applicants have cancelled independent claims 20 and 21, thereby rendering moot the Examiner's rejection thereof.

***Formal Drawings***

A Letter to PTO Draftsman: Submission of Formal Drawings is submitted herewith. The submission includes 15 sheets of formal drawings including FIGS. 1, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b and 4-24.

***Supplemental IDS***

A Supplemental IDS is submitted herewith citing references from the International Search Report of a related International Application. Please consider the cited references and provide Applicants with the initialed PTO-1449 in due course.

***Other Matters***

Amendments were made to claims 4 and 14-19 to correct a clerical error and inconsistencies present at the time of filing.

Further, paragraphs 009 and 021 of the specification have been amended to include the content of originally presented claim 12. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for

allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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